

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Department of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Defense	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Department of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board	439

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	05/20/2026	05/20/2028	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Agency	02/19/1946	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

**Current Next
FY FY**

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	4.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) fulfills several critical functions for the Air Force: 1) provides independent technical advice to Department of the Air Force (DAF) leadership, 2) studies topics deemed critical by the Secretary of the Air Force, 3) recommends applications of technology to improve DAF capabilities, and 4) provides an independent review of the quality and relevance of DAF Science and Technology (S&T) programs.

These are accomplished through study panels, advisory groups, and review panels.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

To account for the wide variety of S&T focus areas that aid the Air Force in the pursuit of technological superiority, the technical expertise of the membership is tracked using 26 distinct technical categories. A strong effort is made to balance board membership in terms of technical expertise, sector (academia, industry, and major scientific institutions), and previous government experience.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Typically, the entire board meets three times annually to deliberate and vote on the findings and recommendations from both studies and S&T reviews, as required. Full board meetings occur in the Fall, Winter, and Spring timeframes. Major studies generally require several information gathering/fact-finding meetings and also hold administrative meetings for briefing preparation and report writing. S&T reviews, when required, generally require fact-finding meetings with Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) technology directorates and may be preceded by visits to geographically separate units.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Secretary of Defense has determined that no other Department of Defense (DoD) advisory committee can provide the independent advice provided by the committee to the Secretary of the Air Force on scientific and technical issues facing the DAF.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings are not closed to the public unless the DoD determines that items on the planned agenda meet the closed meeting provisions of 5 United States Code § 552b(c)(1). Pursuant to DoD policy, closed meetings can only be authorized by the DoD Sponsor, who is the Secretary of the Air Force or designee, and only after consultation with the appropriate General Counsel.

21. Remarks

One study was terminated (Implementing Re-Optimization for Great Power Competition) and three studies were paused in March 2025. As a result of the DoD advisory committee review directed on March 7, 2025, the Board only met once in FY 2025, and all members' terms of service were concluded on April 25, 2025 by the Secretary of Defense. The board plans to restart the paused studies and accomplish reports in FY26. The SAB provides independent advice on matters of S&T relating to the Air Force mission, reporting directly to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Since 1944, luminaries such as Dr. Theodore von Kármán, General James Harold "Jimmy" Doolittle, Dr. Ivan Gettling, Dr. Edward Teller, and Dr. Charles Stark Draper, and more recently Dr. Robert Lucky and Dr. Natalie Crawford, have provided visionary and forward-looking advice on technologies such as: supersonic aircraft, weather forecasting, satellite communications, medical research, crewless airplanes, and defenses against aircraft and missiles. Today, the SAB continues to emphasize future technologies through its in-depth reviews of the AFRL's S&T developments, and its studies of topics tasked by the Secretary and Chief of Staff.

Recent SAB studies have informed Air Force leadership and influenced S&T pursued and adopted by the Air Force. The SAB continues to look into the future, helping enable continued affordable technological pre-eminence of the U.S. Air Force and the Nation.

Designated Federal Officer

Vinson L Bullard DFO

Narrative Description

The DAF SAB studies are undertaken on topics approved by the Secretary of the Air Force. Thus, these are topics DAF Senior Leadership sees as essential to carry out the DAF Mission in the years ahead. SAB recommendations cover both operational concepts and technologies to support the warfighter - both essential elements of the ongoing USAF/USSF transformation. The SAB supports the maintenance of superior S&T in the AFRL through quality reviews which assess the quality and relevance of the Air Force mission of research supported by AFRL.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The DAF invests roughly \$4.6B per year on S&T. The SAB advises DAF leadership on a wide range of technology-related items, and while SAB activities have influence on the content of the S&T portfolio, in general the SAB does not directly address budgeting and investment issues.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1,037

Number of Recommendations Comments

The SAB has been in existence for over 75 years. The number of recommendations (1037) shown above dates back to 2003.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

54%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Dating back to 2003, there is sufficient evidence through DAF feedback and subsequent activity that 558/1037 SAB recommendations have been fully adopted. More recent FY22 , FY23, and FY24 recommendations are included in the bottom number (1037), however it has not been long enough to determine if the results are fully implemented. FY25 studies were paused in March 2025, and there was no new recommendation in FY25.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

14%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Dating back to 2003, there is sufficient evidence through DAF feedback and subsequent activity that 143/1037 SAB recommendations have been partially adopted.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition provides feedback at quarterly board meetings. The Secretary of the Air Force (or an official designee) also provides feedback at scheduled outbriefings. Feedback, if unclassified, will be provided in the meeting minutes from the mentioned meetings. When S&T Reviews are conducted, the Air Force Research Laboratory Commander provides feedback at outbriefs and other board venues.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

When Air Force leadership adopts a SAB recommendation, this adoption may involve reallocation of resources within AFRL or a major command/field command to either engage in a certain technology endeavor or divestiture, or reorganize research priorities within the AFRL.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

Unclassified reports are available via the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), via the public, <https://discover.dtic.mil/>, or the private side of DTIC.